



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS' STATEMENT ON VISIT TO  
LA COUNTY MEN'S CENTRAL JAIL**

Alleged outbreaks of racial violence and the recent deaths of men in custody prompted me to visit the Men's Central Jail and Twin Towers Correctional facility on Tuesday.

There I saw the tremendous effort of Sheriff's Deputies to maintain safety and order under difficult conditions. The environment in the jail reflected the broader distress of our society as a whole – an outdated physical plant, daunting mental health challenges, and simmering racial tensions.

The intensity of those challenges means we must make an equally intense effort to prevent harm to people in a controlled environment. The safety of all in jail – inmates and staff – is not negotiable. People in custody and those guarding them are not expendable.

My visit is only the first of many to come. I shall continue to work with the Sheriff's Department and independent monitors to ensure that our jails are places in which the standards of our civilization are upheld, not excused. I will return to jail facilities to see first-hand that this work is done.

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